

## Mark Lipson

Mark Lipson is the Policy Program Director for the Organic Farming Research Foundation ([HYPERLINK "http://www.ofrf.org" flwww.ofrf.org](http://www.ofrf.org)) in Santa Cruz, CA. His work there since 1995 has been focused on federal agricultural research policy and generally cultivating institutional support for organic farming research and education. He authored the 1997 publication, *Searching for the "O-Word"*, which documented and analyzed the lack of federal support for organic research.

He is also a partner in the Molino Creek Farming Collective, a multi-family organic farming enterprise near Davenport, CA (in Santa Cruz County). He has been part of that farm business and residential community since 1983. The Molino Creek Farm operation encompasses a variety of vegetable, fruit and floral crops on approximately 40 acres of production. The produce is marketed through certified farmers' markets, direct to retailers in central California, and through wholesale distributors of organic foods.

While farming in the late 1980s, Mark worked part-time as the Assistant Executive Director for California Certified Organic Farmers. From 1985 to 1992 he helped lead CCOF in establishing some of the basic features of contemporary organic certification systems. He was a principal architect of the California Organic Foods Act of 1990. From 1991 to 1998 he served as Chairman of the California Organic Foods Advisory Board.

Mark serves on the Governing Council of the Consortium for Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (CSARE). In 1992 he received the Steward of Sustainable Agriculture Award from the Ecological Farming Conference. He graduated with honors from the University of California at Santa Cruz in 1981 with an undergraduate degree in Environmental Planning and Public Policy.